

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /062 W

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R 180923Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8622

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3626

FOLLOWING MSG FROM SONGKHLA RECD ACTION BANGKOK IS REPEATED TO
YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PGOV TH

SUBJECT: PATRIOTISM AND CHAUVINISM IN PATTANI AFTERMATH

1. MOOD OF RTG OFFICIALS HERE AFTER PATTANI DEMONSTRATION
(SONGKHLA 029) REFLECTS BOTH ANGER AT MUSLIMS AND DETERMINATION
TO HOLD ONTO MUSLIM PROVINCES AT ALL COSTS. I NOW HEAR TALK
ABOUT IMPLANTING MORE THAI BUDDHIST SETTLEMENTS IN THE
MUSLIM PROVINCES, NOT AN INCH OF THAI SOIL EVER BEING SURRENDERED
TO THE SEPARATISTS AND DEMANDS THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD HAVE FEWER NOT
MORE RIGHTS THAN THAIS.

2. THAI MARINES HAVE MOVED OFF PATTANI BRIDGE AND INTO NARATHIWAT,
SO IN SPITE OF KHUKRIT'S PROMISE TO REMOVE TDY SOLDIERS AND POLICE
RTG FORCES STILL MORE OR LESS REMAIN IN PLACE. EXPECT THIS WILL
CONTINUE. INDEED, CHECKPOINTS ON ROADS NOW IN MUSLIM PROVINCES SEEM
MORE EFFICIENT AND POLICE ACTUALLY LOOKING IN CARS RATHER THAN
YAWNING THEM PAST AS WE PREVIOUS ROUTINE.

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3. WHILE HARSH ATTITUDES MENTIONED ABOVE PROBABLY MEAN FUTURE

CONFRONTATIONS WITH MUSLIM MAJORITIES IN SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES,
BELIEVE AGGRESSIVE AND PATRIOTIC FERVORS NOOELBRTHY, SINCE THIS
CHAUVINISM COMES FROM THE SAME PEOPLE WHO PREVIOUS UTTERED LINES
LIKE "SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE UNITED STATES AS A REFUGEE". WE ALL
SEE CURRENT DEFEATIST ATTITUDE AMONG SOME THAI WHO JOKE OR TALK
EARNESTLY ABOUT EVENTUAL COMMUNIST VICTORY HERE OR WHO SEE THAILAND AS

"NEXT DOMINO". SUGGEST WE SHOULD PUT THIS PROTECTION OF THAI SOIL
FEELING INTO THE EQUATION AS WELL, THOUGH, SINCE WHEN ACTUALLY CON-
FRONTED BY ALIENS THE THAI DO GET THEIR PATRIOTIC BACK UP.
GRANTED THE POOR MUSLIMS ARE NOT COMPARABLE TO HANOI AS A FOE;
HOWEVER, THIS NEW ATTITUDE COULD ILLUSTRATE THAT THAI WILL
ONLY GET DEEPLY THEIR INSURGENCY IF AND WHEN IT SIGNIFICANTLY
THREATENS THE THAI HEARTLAND, AND THAT THEY MAY EVEN RESPOND
TO SUCH A THREAT RATHER THAN ACCOMODATE.

CASTRODALE
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, BUDDHISTS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO03626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760060-0402
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760241/aaaabjtf.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PATRIOTISM AND CHAUVINISM IN PATTANI AFTERMATH
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006